

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed June 23, 2005 Claims 1-25 are currently pending. Claims 1-4, 8-16, and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Justice, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,418,469). Claims 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gaffaney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,634,008). Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Justice, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,418,469) in view of Kline (U.S. Patent No. 4,080,589). Claims 17-18, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Justice, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,418,469) in view of Gaffaney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,634,008). Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaffaney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,634,008) in view of Justice, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,418,469).

Applicants respectively traverse. After a careful review of the Office Action and the cited references, Applicants respectively request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-4, 8-16, and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Justice, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,418,469). Claims 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gaffaney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,634,008). Applicants respectively traverse.

A. Applicant's Presently Claimed Invention: Independent Claims 1, 8, 22, and 23

Applicants' presently claimed invention generally relates to an apparatus and method for the management of a network, and more particularly to a network management apparatus and

method capable of generating events when predefined significant conditions are detected.

(Applicants' Specification at p. 1 lines 6-9).

Applicants' presently claimed invention is generally directed to methods and systems that processes received network management data, and determines if the network management data indicates that a previous (i.e., historical) event in the event log has been resolved and then changing a severity indicator of the previous event dependent on a determining step.

For example, as Applicant's provide, Figure 2 illustrates a method in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention which may be employed by the network management station 3A to address this difficulty. The method is preferably implemented in the form of a computer program forming part of a network management software application. It will be appreciated that the invention may be implemented in other forms such as hardware.

At step 10, the program monitors the network using conventional monitoring techniques as described above. At step 20, the program receives network management data resulting from the monitoring in step 10. The network management data may be data retrieved from the network during the monitoring process, or may be data relating to events generated by the network management software application as a result of an event condition being observed during previous monitoring of the network or by the (real time) monitoring in step 10.

(Applicants' Specification at p. 9 lines 7-19).

At step 30 the program receives the data from step 20 and considers whether it resolves an existing event in the event list, i.e. an event received previously ("previous event"). The manner in which the program determines whether the data resolves an existing event is dependent on the type of data and/or event, and examples are given below in relation to the preferred embodiments illustrated in Figures 3 to 5.

If step 30 determines that the data received from step 20 does not resolve an existing event, the program continues with step 40. At step 40, if the data from step 20 indicates a recordable event condition, the program generates and logs an unresolved event in the event log and returns to step 10. (Applicants' Specification at p. 1 lines 21-30).

5 It will be appreciated that in some embodiments, if the data received at step 20 relates to (recordable) events which resolve previous events, then such events are preferably not placed in the event list for presentation to the user, but instead the existing event is marked as resolved in the event list.

In certain preferred embodiments, illustrated in Figures 2, 3 and 4, the program is carried
10 out in real time in response to the network management application receiving network management data from the network. This ensures that the event list is updated continuously so that the event list presented to the network administrator always indicates the current state of the network. It will be appreciated that in other embodiments the program could be used by the network administrator to process a plurality of events already appearing in the event list to
15 determine which events are resolved.

In addition, in the preferred embodiments, the program not only marks resolved events as resolved, but also changes the severity of the resolved event. In particular, a different severity may be applied to all resolved events, or the severity may be reduced according to the type of event. By changing the severity indication of a resolved event, the network administrator can
20 apply conventional filters to the event list to remove resolved events. The filtered list then only includes unresolved events. In addition, if the severity for resolved events is reduced to "Low", management systems with limited memory space for the event log will automatically

preferentially delete these events along with other low severity events. (Applicants' Specification at p. 10 lines 1-29).

The presently pending Independent Claims 1, 8, 22, and 23 are directed to such a method and system. For example, Independent Claim 1 expressly recites a method for processing
5 network management data received by a network management system during the monitoring of a network comprising the step of receiving network management data, and determining if the network management data indicates the resolution of a previous event generated by the network management system in response to previously received network management data and changing a severity indicator of said previous event dependent on said determining step. Independent
10 Claims 8, 22, and 23 have been amended to include similar limitations.

B. Neither Justice '469 Nor Gaffaney '008 Teach or Suggest Changing a Severity Indicator of a Previous Event

Neither Justice '469 nor Gaffaney '008 teach or suggest changing a severity indicator of a previous event as expressly claimed in Applicant's presently pending Independent Claims 1, 8,
15 22, and 23. For example, the June 23, 2005 Office Action contends that at Col. 1, lines 25-67, Justice '469 discloses receiving network management data and determining if the network management data indicates the resolution of a previous event generated by the network management system in response to previously received network management data. June 23, 2005 Office Action at p. 2. However, at Col. 1, lines 25-67 of Justice '469, there is simply no
20 teaching or suggestion of Applicants' step of "determining if the network management data indicates the resolution of a previous event generated by the network management system in response to previously received network management data and changing a severity indicator of said previous event dependent on said determining step."

Gaffaney '008 fails for a similar reason. For example, the June 23, 2005 Office Action contends that at Col. 4, lines 34-50 and Col. 5, lines 1-49, Gaffaney '008 discloses a method of processing event data generated by a network management system during the monitoring of a network, processing event data relating to events previously generated by the network management system a plurality of time and which may be entered in the event log as a recurring event, identifying an event to be processed from the vent list, and considering whether the condition which caused the event to be generated has occurred in a preceding time period. June 23, 2005 Office Action at p. 5-6. However, at Col. 4, lines 34-50 and Col. 5, lines 1-49 of Gaffaney '008, there is simply no teaching or suggestion of Applicants' step of "determining if the network management data indicates the resolution of a previous event generated by the network management system in response to previously received network management data and changing a severity indicator of said previous event dependent on said determining step.

C. Applicant's Presently Claim Invention: Independent Claims 13 and 19

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Justice, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,418,469) and Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gaffaney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,634,008). Applicants respectively traverse.

1. *Independent Claim 13*

Applicants have amended Independent Claims 13 and 19. Specifically, Claim 13 has been amended to expressly recite a method for processing data received in an asynchronous Trap by a network management system comprising the steps of receiving a Trap from the network; considering if the Trap indicates the possible resolution of a event in an event log, and if so further considering if the Trap indicates the possible resolution of a further event in the event log. (emphasis added).

Support for this amendment is found at least in part in Applicants' specification at page 16 line 29 to page 17 line 1, and Figure 4. For example, Applicants' state that events can be resolved by other types of trap. For example, a trap that says 'device not responding' could be resolved by a trap saying 'device sending errors'. The two are not complimentary but a device that is sending errors is at least available on the network. Justice '469 appears to use a Trap to identify whether an event has been resolved, but nowhere discloses or suggests considering if the trap indicates the possible resolution of a further event in the event log.

The June 23, 2005 Office Action contends that at Col. 3, lines 26-67, Justice '469 discloses a method for processing data received in an synchronous Trap by a network management system, the method comprising receiving a Trap from the network, considering if the Trap indicates the possible resolution of a event in an event log, and if so considering whether the even log includes a previously received event that is resolved by the Trap. June 23, 2005 Office Action at p. 4. However, in this cited portion of Justice '469 of Justice '469, there is simply no teaching or suggestion of Applicants' step of a method for processing data received in an asynchronous Trap by a network management system comprising the steps of receiving a Trap from the network; considering if the Trap indicates the possible resolution of a event in an event log, and if so further considering if the Trap indicates the possible resolution of a further event in the event log. (emphasis added).

1. Independent Claim 19

Claim 19 has been amended to expressly recite a method for processing event data generated by a network management system during the monitoring of a network, the method processing event data relating to events previously generated by the network management system a plurality of times and which may be entered in the event log as a recurring event, the method

comprising identifying a recurring event to be processed from the event list; and considering whether the condition which caused the event to be generated has occurred in a preceding time period. (emphasis added).

Support for this amendment is found at least in part in Applicants' specification at specification at page 18 lines 6 to 28. For example, Applicants' state that the present application discloses actively reviewing events in the event log to identify recurring events, and determining whether an event satisfying those conditions has occurred within the immediately preceding time period, i.e. whether the recurring event is still active. Gaffaney '008, on the other hand, appears to disclose a method for determining whether a detected event is a recurring event, it does not disclose identifying a recurring event from the event list and considering whether the condition which caused the event to be generated has occurred in a preceding time period, i.e. it does not pro-actively identify whether a recurring event is still active.

The June 23, 2005 Office Action contends that at Col. 4, lines 34-50; Col. 5, lines 1-49, Gaffaney '008 allegedly discloses a method for processing event data generated by a network management system during the monitoring of a network, the method processing event data relating to events previously generated by the network management system a plurality of times and which may be entered in the event log as a recurring event, the method comprising identifying an event to be processed from the event list and considering whether the condition which caused the event to be generated has occurred in a preceding time period. June 23, 2005 Office Action at p. 5-6. However, in this cited portion of Gaffaney '008, there is simply no teaching or suggestion of Applicants' step of a method for processing data received in an asynchronous Trap by a network management system comprising the steps of receiving a Trap from the network; considering if the Trap indicates the possible resolution of a event in an event

log, and if so further considering if the Trap indicates the possible resolution of a further event in the event log. (emphasis added).

Consequently, Independent Claims 1, 8, 13, 19, 22, and 23 are allowable for at least all of the reasons stated above. The remaining claims are all dependent on these allowable independent claims and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

III. SUMMARY

Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the remarks above, the present application, including claims 1-25, is in condition for allowance and solicit action to that end.

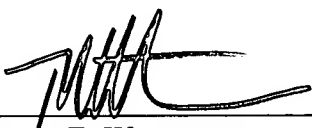
If there are any matters that may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (312) 913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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